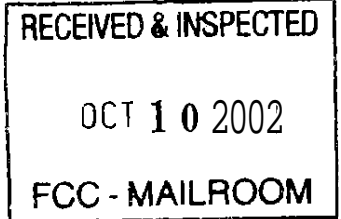


October 8, 2002

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FOR THE LA REGION

Marlene H. Dortch
Commissioner Secretary
445 12th Street SW
CY-B402
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: 02-306

Dear Commissioner Dortch:

Around the state, we are clearly experiencing an economic slump – businesses are failing, jobs are being slashed, and even our state's budget is facing billions of dollars in deficit. Every business – large and small throughout the Los Angeles area – is feeling a significant impact from the economic downturn and the effects of an uncertain environment.

Los Angeles
Economic
Development
Corporation

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) is committed to establishing an environment that promotes economic growth and opportunities. We need to take care of our business environment in California – and ensure that the state continues to be known as a place where business can thrive and grow.

515 S. Flower St
32nd Floor
Los Angeles, CA
90071

The California Public Utilities Commission has the power to deliver a much-needed shot-in-the-arm to businesses in the area and around the state: approve SBC Pacific Bell's long distance application as scheduled this Thursday, September 19.

Telephone
213.622.4300

SBC Pacific Bell's application to provide competitive long distance service in the California market has been pending for more than four years. Increased long distance competition means more advanced telecommunications services for business as well as for residential consumers. Businesses around the state count on these technologies to grow beyond their geographic boundaries. Advanced telecommunications services also allow businesses to compete with companies across the country and around the world.

Facsimile
213.622.7100

In July, the California Public Utilities Commission issued a proposed decision, a first step toward allowing Pacific Bell to compete in the long distance market. And this week, the Commission has slated a final vote to be held on this long-anticipated application. I urge you to move forward this week as scheduled with this vote.

Sincerely,

Lee K. Harrington
President & CEO

cc: Janice Myles
Qualex International